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Forest Research Notes

Northeastern Forest
Experiment Station
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REPORT ON 1959 FOREST TREE SEED CROP IN NEW ENGLAND

The 1959 forest tree seed crop is generally light, according to observers.[1] It is better than the 1957 crop, but only in few places is it comparable with last year's production. The better crops were reported in the northwestern Massachusetts-southwestern Vermont area and in the eastern Maine area.

Severe winter weather and summer drought conditions are given as causes for reduced crops in central and northern Vermont. Frost and late snow damage is reported in Grafton County, New Hampshire. Elsewhere, insect damage and hungry squirrels reduced the crop.

In general, most species produced a light seed crop, with medium or better crops in some localities (table 1). The white pine seed crop was reported heavy in the Massachusetts-Vermont area and in eastern Maine. A good crop was reported for both 1958 and 1959 for parts of the coastal region in Maine. There were isolated reports of medium seed crops for other conifers--particularly white spruce in eastern Maine, hemlock in central Vermont, and tamarack and cedar in eastern Maine and western Vermont.

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[1]Based on 42 reports distributed as follows: Maine 14, New Hampshire 6, Vermont 15, Massachusetts 4, Rhode Island 1, Connecticut 2. State Service Foresters, forestry school faculty members, industrial foresters, and U. S. Forest Service personnel cooperated in supplying this information. The project was conducted by the Committee on Silviculture, New England Section, Society of American Foresters.

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Table 1.--Forest tr[illegible]eed crops in [illegible] England, 1959

Species	Seed crop classification*										
	Maine			New Hampshire	Vermont		Massachusetts		Connecticut		Rhode Island
	N	E	Other		SW	Other	NW	Other	NW	Other	
White pine	F	H	L	VL	H	L	H	F	M	VL	VL
Red pine	VL	L	VL	L	M	VL	M	L	L	L	VL
White spruce	VL	M	VL	VL	--	F	L	F	F	VL	F
Red spruce	L	L	VL	L	VL	F	F	F	VL	--	--
Balsam fir	F	VL	VL	L	VL	VL	F	F	F	--	--
Hemlock	L	L	VL	L	L	M	VL	VL	F	F	VL
Tamarack	--	M	--	--	H	--	--	--	VL	--	--
Northern white-cedar	VL	M	VL	VL	H	M	--	--	F	--	--
Red maple	VL	L	M	L	L	VL	L	M	VL	VL	--
Sugar maple	VL	VL	L	L	L	VL	VL	F	F	VL	--
Black birch	L	VL	VL	--	--	VL	M	M	M	--	--
Yellow birch	M	VL	VL	M	VL	VL	L	--	M	F	--
White birch	M	L	L	L	L	VL	L	--	M	F	--
Red oak	--	VL	M	M	--	M	L	L	L	VL	--
White oak	--	--	L	M	--	[illegible]	L	H	VL	VL	M
Basswood	VL	--	M	[illegible]	--	[illegible]	--	--	L	--	--
Beech	VL	L	VL	L	L	VL	F	F	VL	--	--
White ash	F	M	M	L	L	M	L	M	F	L	L
Black cherry	--	--	--	--	--	M	--	--	VL	--	--
Trembling aspen	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	VL	L	--	--
Bigtooth aspen	M	M	L	L	L	VL	--	VL	L	--	--

*Seed crops are classified as follows:

F = Failure: none, or few seeds on occasional trees.
VL = Very Light: few seeds on 25 percent of the trees.
L = Light: few seeds on 75 percent of the trees.
M = Medium: some seeds on all trees, many on some trees (up to 75 percent).
H = Heavy: some seeds on all trees, many on most trees (over 75 percent).

Hardwood seed crops--particularly in the beech, birch, maple association--were very light. The white oak acorn crop was reported heavy in eastern Massachusetts. There were several reports of medium or heavy crops of red oak acorns within the species range. There was a good crop of red maple seed in southwestern Maine and eastern Massachusetts. The boxelder seed crop was reported heavy in Penobscot County, Maine, and medium in Caledonia County, Vermont. There was a heavy crop of mountain maple seed in Aroostook County, Maine.

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